# America's Greatest Public Library.

and the foundation of one of the gest as well as most beautiful strucares in the world devoted entirely to

It was nearly six years ago, or in March, 1895, that the trustees of the Aslibrary finally decided to combine the Lenox and the Tilden trust nd for the establishment of the instidestined to be one of the most icial of its kind. The same year-13, 1855-the governor of New York signed the bill for erecting a building the New York Public library. As e law explicitly declared that "said bury building was to be erected in Bryant park or in or upon any portion the library committee took r granted that it was to occupy the of the old reservoir and arranged the preliminary competition of ar-

ets on that basis. The consolidation was effected for the express purpose of conferring an inesmable benefit upon the city of New York and not in accordance with any cheme contemplated by the original founders of the Lenox or Astor libra-The great desideratum had long een known and keenly appreciated, for New York had no public library in its larger sense, both those named above

EW YORK will no longer have its kind, strictly up to date and em- wide. The front elevation will be 75 nomics. It is well known, of course, shelves some 260,000 volumes, and when alone is the test of eligibility.

to bear the reproach which has to be to bear the reproach which has to bear the reproach which has to be to be the reproach which has to be the reproach which has the proposition that the proposition t

to bear the total agreemental influences competition there were 88 higher to been its portion that, higher to be a stack capacity at the latter has probably more lection left by Mr. Tilden the total agreemental influences compel us to incombining architectural beauties with some classes of books and the Lenox in tains and the comparatively small coloring architectural beauties with such that the precious works on archiectors, for under the first competition for the precious works on archiectural beauties with some classes of books and the Lenox in tains and the comparatively small coloring architectural beauties with some classes of books and the Lenox in tains and the comparatively small coloring architectural beauties with some combining architectural bea the preliminary work is nearly done the preliminary work is nearly done to erect more ambitious structures than any other institution. There are, of course, many thousand to erect more ambitious structures than

the afternoon till 9 at night on Sunday. America, and while our bibliophiles and There is to be no discrimination here, antiquarians have found the libraries unless the evil creeps in imperceptibly, of Europe valuable sources of supply, for it is intended that the poor person it cannot be denied that this country shall receive the same attention as the has become the home of the public lirich. It is in this universal feilowship brary. Without arrogating to ourselves of letters and literature that the great any superlative facilities for library ibraries are doing so much good in a work, we may claim to be well situated julet, unostentations way. The book is for its establishment and continuance passport to the charmed circle of In the first place, our country is situterature, and intellectual attainment ated in the zone of greatest intellectual activity, where elimatic as well as tem-In the anxiety to provide buildings peramental influences compel us to in-

When the first library statistics were published in the United States (and that was so late as 1876), this country had only 2,500 libraries of all classes. with a total of 12,000,000 volumes. Less than a quarter of a century later we had more than 4.000 libraries, with an aggregate of 40,000,000 volumes. Doubtless the quality of the collections could be improved by a judicious conflagration which would reduce the number at least by half, and there is no doubt that the wealth of the country would be greatly enhanced if not less than 20,000,-900 were to be turned into paper stock. But there is no one so fixed in his traditions as the librarian, who seems to believe, with the Arab proverb, that every printed scrap of paper has something of value on it. The most amazing growth has taken place in the last 0 years, in this respect library expansion having kept pace with the increase in general knowledge,

The library system may be said to have been inaugurated in America with the founding of the Harvard College library in 1636 or 1638. Yale received its benefaction in 1700; the first subscription library is said to have been started by Benjamin Franklin and others in 1732, and the best known of the free libraries -that of Boston-was founded in 1852. The list of those who have contributed

village church, and the name arises

numerous libraries in the country that from the practimes of keep ing watch the and praying in the church unti morning dawn-

At Abbot Bromley six deer skulls, with antlers mounted time to a lively tune, making

marksman with a long bow creeps for-

harks back to the time when Robin doubtless the representative of Maid Marian. Oddly enough, the horns, when examined by a naturalist, turn-

At a place called Kotorn, on the

mean death to

the guilty one

or sickness

among the fam-

ily. The fetich

there are plen-

ty, declare that

years ago a man

vent to sea fish-

night his cance

was thrown up

on the beach

days afterward

empty.

In the

Three



who had not previously taken part were invited to offer designs. Each the sessue reference and being in their essence of the entire the only their essence and in the essence and their essence of their results and papers in a large who founded the library bearing his billibrary that are worth next to nothing and number do not the library bearing his billibrary that are early be dispensed with, but obooks, whereas the converse ought to books, whereas the converse ought to be oke, and an allowance of \$800 for the extraction of their fellow men in America alone to a library state to nothing which with the submit the support in housing \$

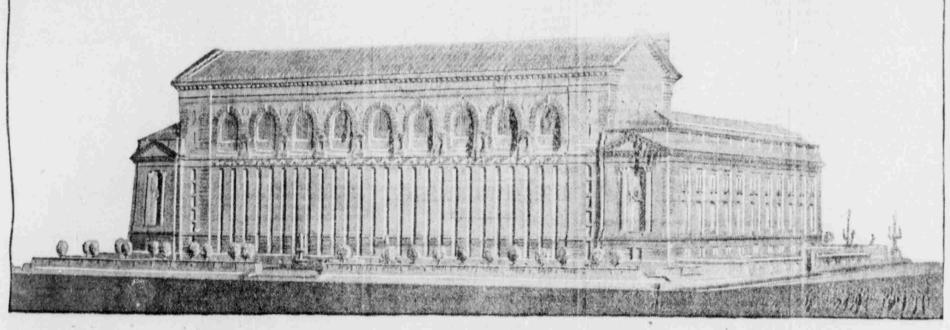
teresting to note that their number is tice in mediæval increasing One of the unique and up to date features of the New York consolidated li- previous night brary will be brought out by its absorption of the free circulating system, decided upon at a meeting of the trustees the first week in January. The proper. ed. ty held by the existing Free Circulating library of the city amounts in value to \$750,000, and an agreement was reached by which not only will the circulating lbrary be established, but also branch on short poles ibraries in connection with various are carried chools of Manhattan. These branch about by men, libraries will be primarily for the bene- who caper in fit of persons who attend the board of ation lectures, and not for school hildren. Thus every worthy class of society will be reached as this gigantic dance about, institution stretches out its arms and while a man on inally performs the service for which a hobbyhorse t was intended—as a nucleus for the lashes them with a whip to spur them assembling of the vastest library on to higher leaps and bounds. Then a

cost above \$100,000 each, and it is in-

Great libraries are of necessity grad- | ward and pretends to shoot the deer, ual growths, and in their foundation while all the village stands agape to and development may be considered in. enjoy the fun. Until quite lately the dices of a city's or a country's status horn dance used to be held on Wake in civilization. In reviewing the events Sunday morning, just at the church f history nothing so surely fixes at- door, and collections of money were ention and awakens interest as the made for the poor. data pertaining to these aggregations of books or their equivalents, be they Moslem, and of the Aztec picture writ- with the music. This curious survival



on paper, on parchment or on the clay horns are still kept in the church tow-tablets with cuneiform inscriptions er, with the hobbyhorse and the bow ound at Nineveh. The oldest known and arrows, and a most curious old pot brary, founded at Thebes in the time for collecting the money. This pot is Rameses II, will ever wear a crown perennial glory; the destruction of The underjaw of the hobbyhorse is he Alexandrian library by Omar, the loose and is rattled by a string in time While the collections of books in the Hood and his merry men hunted the erioriy so that it would be a model of large arches, each 35 feet high and 15 ics, music, Biblical literature and eco- the last report, the Astor had on its every weekday and from 1 o'clock in old world far antedate those made in



SIDE VIEW OF THE MAMMOTH ASTOR-LENOX LIBRARY BUILDING.

elect committee of eminent specialists,

Meanwhile, under the supervision of a architectural prizes of the century.

high, with a shelving space for about be assembled in the consolidated libra- of the library's contents. Fronting on Fifth avenue, with a 1,250,000 books. A central delivery com- ry. resided over by Dr. J. S. Billings, as a length of 350 feet, a depth of 250 feet municates directly with the upper or The Lenox library was founded in vided librarians skilled in their craft coard of trustees, specifications were and a height of three stories, the build- reading room, and the service is ex- 1870, and so is considerably younger and if the new institution is not well regard for the structure to be erecting will have sufficient space not only pected to be unprecedentedly prompt. The structure to be erecting will have sufficient space not only pected to be unprecedentedly prompt. The structure to be erecting will have sufficient space not only pected to be unprecedentedly prompt. The structure to be erecting will have sufficient space not only pected to be unprecedentedly prompt. The structure to be erecting will have sufficient space not only pected to be unprecedentedly prompt. As in the older libraries of which it is endowed in 1848. John Jacob Astor's quirements of the century it will not be found as a basic for their structure to be erecting will have sufficient space not only pected to be unprecedentedly prompt. As in the older libraries of which it is endowed in 1848. John Jacob Astor's quirements of the century it will not be from lack of available timber. plan, as a basis for their designs lines. The general treatment of the or alcoves for the use of students in in those days was considered munifiarchitects were to adhere to cerfifth avenue facade is in the classic any branch of study or investigation, cent, as it was. W. B. Astor added to it commend itself to all patrons, and that lings by Cortes, the Spanish conquista-

was pushed to successful conclusion. | who thereby drew one of the richest is 270 feet long, 72 feet wide and 53 feet | 125,000 volumes to the total which will | ped assistants with only a crude idea

The several training schools have pro

and features, giving not only a build—
Ionic order, with columns and pilasters, including every large topic, such as orithe main entrance being under three ental literature, sociology, mathematmaking a total of \$1,200,000. According to door from 9 in the morning to 9 at night

While the collections of boo

# AMAN WITH A GENIUS FOR FIGURES

## Carrolf D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor.

Tan address he delivered before economics.

statistics and supervisor of the perial Russian Academy of Sciences.

man who is credited with pletely has he filled the position, in fact, vard and was in 1883 the recipient of that off quoted saying. "Figures do not lie, but liars figure," lives at present in Washington, at the degree of A. M. from Tufts college. It was in April, 1884, that the congress at present in Washington, and the position, in the degree of A. M. from Tufts college. at present in Washington and he was raised and educated to occupy sional committee on labor reported, with this particular niche in the temple of amendments, a bill providing for the

a the pen of Mr. H. B. T. Mac- early age, but intermitted his pursuit consent of the senate." After considerpresident of the board of com- of professional laurels to enlist for serv- able opposition, particularly in the sen-Wish District of Columbia. ice in the civil war. Returning with ate, and the tacking on of amendments Wright, who is quoted as an the rank of colonel, he resumed his calculated to injure or kill it on its reon questions ethical as well as studies and was admitted to the bar in turn to the house, the bill was finally has it is al, has, it is averred, brought 1865. Following the example of many accepted in conference committee and hearly universal recognition of other sons of New Hampshire who have went to the president, whose approval th of that proverb, "Labor om
meit" ("Labor conquers all even statistics and its opportunities for a great ca
reer hardly adequate, Colonel Wright Some of the senators having argued (conquers all reer hardly adequate, Colonel Wilgits some of the labor was hardly worthy the special conductors and is a living removed to Boston, where his abilities that labor was hardly worthy the special colonel wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor wilging the labor wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor wilging the labor was hardly wilging the labor wilging th

pervisor of the national census of his adopted state attracted attention be-yond the confines of Massachusetts, his ectures before the Lowell Institute of Boston in 1879 on phases of the labor question ethically considered stamping him as a man of broad sympathies, with a comprehensive grasp of the question in its relation to the world at large. He was for a year university ecturer on the factory system at Harassington Academy of Sciences. A native of New Hampshire, where tistics at the seat of government, with also by the frequent complimen- he was born just 60 years ago, Colonel a commissioner to be appointed by the eferences to his work in an arti- Wright began the study of law at an president by and with the advice and

were so highly appreciated that he nev- cial distinction of a department by itclass, it is admitted, are born, er lacked for occupation. His law prac- self and that there was already a bufor unless one has a natural tice soon mounted to the tidy sum of reau of statistics, the scope of which If he will not excel at figur- \$10,000 a year, but such was his desire could be enlarged to provide for any But with Colonel Carroll D. to wrestle with figures on a large scale contingencies, several excellent speech-The national commissioner of that he readily resigned it for less re-amiliarity with figures has not munerative employment as state stat-bly the worth and importance of this dismpt, but profound admira- istician, where he was particularly in prospective department. One in pardismpt, but profound admira- istician, where he was particularly in prospective department. One in pardismandacity is said, and in his element. Thus, after beginning life ticular, by Mr. Foran of Ohio, was noteand mendacity is not tolerated by as a country schoolmaster, serving four worthy for the broad minded view taken greatly to the credit of the Unitthe legal profession, with an incidental of the question and for the clucidation
that the first appears as a soldier and several more in
of the question and for the clucidation
the legal profession, with an incidental of the intimate relations that exist bethe first appointee to the dab at lawmaking as a legislator (1871-2, a national bursted by the form
Massachusetts state senate), he finally of the country. "I doubt." he said, "if a national bureau of labor sta- found his vocation as a statistician, there has ever been before the Ameriin 1835 is now regarded as one That he won renown, both at home and can congress a question of greater im-Colonel Waltsticians of the abroad, is now well known. His books portance or one that more directly condonel Wright, the only in- on special subjects may be numbered cerns the welfare of humanity. It is a on special subjects may be numbered cerns the welfare of numancy. It is that fit the office, has for the past by the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws he was honored by appointment to the head previously acquired as membership in the Institute of France of the Massachusetts stated by the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws and evil legislation originate in and spring from that cupidity and selfishers the massachusetts stated by the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the welfare of numancy. It is the first below the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the welfare of numancy. It is the first below the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the welfare of numancy. It is the first below the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the welfare of numancy. It is the first below the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the welfare of numancy. It is the first below the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the welfare of numancy. It is the first below the dozen, and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the welfare of numancy. It is the first below the first below the dozen and only two years ago generally accepted axiom that bad laws are the first below t the Massachusetts state bureau and honorary membership in the Im-satistics and successful and honorary membership in the Im-characteristics in human nature. This States census of 1880. So com- Colonel Wright's thorough work as su- proposition, however, is only partially

true, for a very considerable portion of ling of the science of society or of that ling conditions of collective messes of the imperfect and vicious legislation of science which M. Comte more compactwhich the people justly complain may by and succinctly designates sociology—
life. be fraced to a lack of reliable data and a science which concerns itself with all accurate knowledge upon the part of the various phenomena incident to man stated, is to promote a more general WHERE TURTLES ARE VENERATED the average lawmaker, of a true con- in society and resulting from the multi- diffusion and better comprehension of

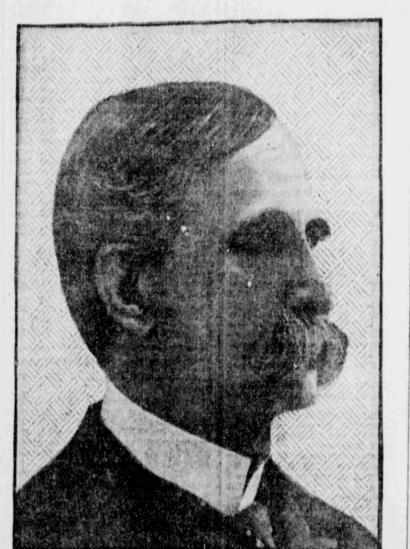


Photo by Pierson, Elizabeth, N. J.

CARROLL D. WRIGHT.

ception or comprehensive understand- form actions and peculiar and chang- social science. Sociological science is based upon statistics which collect, col-French Ivory Coast, the natives believe that to eat or destroy a turtle would late, arrange and compare facts, from which the statesman ascertains, and without which he cannot ascertain, those great principles in accordance with which the state must act if it would promote and foster the well being and happiness of its citizens. It is from this source alone that the political economist can determine an equitable and just rule to govern the production and distribution of wealth."

Colonel Wright seems to have carried out the original idea of the founders of this bureau to the satisfaction of those most competent to judge, as is evidenced by his retention in office through several administrations. That he has risen above the plane occupied by the mere statistician and has graps pled with problems which the century desires to solve, that he has co-ordinated the immense aggregation of data accumulated by him and his assistants and made it available as a solvent for the century's economic woes, is hoped, never eaten or destroyed one of that if not admitted, by all. TRUMAN L. ELTON.

THE STINGY MAN'S BARGAIN.

A man noted for his "nearness" went into a meat shop and inquired the price the turtle's back. Food is then preof a certain soup bone. The proprietor of the shop was a generous fellow, and in answer to the old man's question he said, "Oh, I'll give you that." The customer put his hand to his ear. He is back into the sea and goes on its way hard of hearing and had missed the re-"Can't you take something off that?" he asked. The dealer took pity on him. "Yes," he said, "call it 10 cents." And the old man went home with a comfortable sense of having driven a good trade.

WAS A MAN OR MONKEY FIRST!

man being the ascendant animal. A their feasts on human flesh altogethe earned German professor claims to excepting when something unusual have made the discovery that man ex- happens, such as entertaining a king of isted on earth before the monkeys ap- some other cannibal island or state oc-

men, of whom

a turtle came Three days afterward a tur- same place with tle came ashore at the the man on its same place with the man back alive and on its back alive and well. Since that

time they have species, although they enjoy other species. If one now happens to be washed ashore, there is great commotion in the town. First, the women sit down and start singing and beating sticks; next a small piece of white cloth is placed on pared and placed on the cloth, general-

### PREFER ROAST PORK.

In the New Hebrides human life has been made safer by the introduction of pigs into the island. The cannibals are said to prefer roast pork to roast man. and as the porcine tribe increases The outlook is not so favorable to among the natives they may give up casion of rare ceremony.

## JUST ODDS AND ENDS.

description and the clieb. Wy., by M. V. Giltgia, where the phrase originated, "Hold at cost and storage for bicycles is prolife fears that the elk will share the clieb. The corps of young officers. Queen withelmina is said to be raplarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Georlarger than been established ble battle o fears that the elk will share the fort, for I am coming," has been vided. There are a smoking room and a been compelled to sue.

There lives at Paduci

An elk preserve has been established ble battle of Allatoona Pass, in Geor
Tacken's Hole, Wy, by M. M. M. God.

The same of the club. Refreshments are served by the corps of young officers. Queen the corps of young officers.

Take of the buffalo. He now has a with having started four years table to General John M. Corse, thin commander at the remarka
Thin commander at the remarka
The dies of the buffalo. He now has a with having started four years table to General John M. Corse, the dues are 10 cents a prominent artist at Munich. At that the elk will share the phrase originated, the fort, for I am coming," has been of the fort, for I am coming," has been of the fort, for I am coming," has been oblighed to sue.

There lives at Paducah, Ky., a blind mechanic who can and does place laths the queen's father, her predecessor on planned for the basement.

The chief engineer of the New Orleans.

The chief engineer of the New Orleans that the elk will share the fort, for I am coming," has been of the curses of Holland, and beverage.

The chief engineer of the New Orleans the the fort, for I am coming," has been of the curses of Holland, and beverage.

The chief engineer of the New Orleans the throne, was accounted the chamber of the curses of Holland, and beverage.

The chief engineer of the New Orleans the throne, was accounted the chamber of the form of a gold cable.

The chief engineer of the New Orleans the throne, was accounted the chamber of the form of a gold cable.

month, and the payment of the same time the prince hoped to be promoted much work in a day as any man in his her intended husband, Henry of Meck- compared with the cost of running an